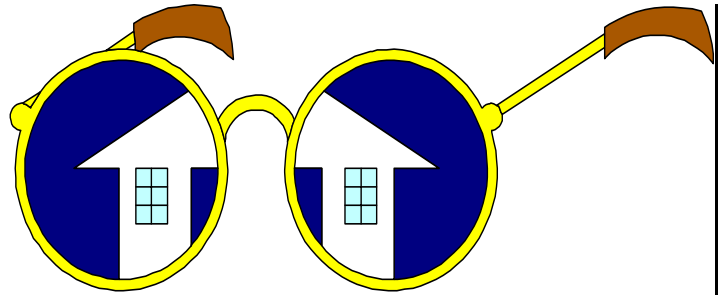


Super Sentinel



August, 2003

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3

Terri's Tidbits

Hello again! I hope you have found a way to stay good and "cool" this summer. The summer Neighborhood Watch captain's meeting held on June 19th was one of the "coolest" meetings we have had yet and I feel sorry for anyone who missed it.

Leading the program was our own Commander Dan Saban. As usual he had some pearls of wisdom to share with us, the best one being the arrest of the vandals that had been using baseball bats on vehicle glass throughout the southeast valley. He will continue to start each meeting with a Q & A session. Have your list of questions ready for our next meeting which will be held in early December. (More on that in the November newsletter.)

Jerry Quarles and his side kick, "Polly", showed us what they do when they present the "Be Alert" program to the children. By using magic and comedy, they talk about how they teach the children to stay safe. Mike Burdsall was one of the lucky ones to be selected to help Jerry with some of his magic tricks. If you have a chance to ask Mike about the "magic wand" trick, I am sure he will be delighted to tell you about it. We really were laughing "with" you, Mike, honest. Some of the topics Jerry and Polly talked about were "No, Go and Tell", truthfulness and what to do when approached by a stranger.



If you have children or grandchildren between the ages of 5-11 this program might be of interest to you. For more information call Jerry Quarles at 480-644-2539.

Rounding out the meeting was our final speaker, Darin Douglass, training supervisor from MPD Communications. Darin explained the "priority call system", the procedure used by the operators answering "911" calls and other non-emergency calls. He also wanted the captains to understand that their 911 calls on their cellular telephones could not be traced, like regular telephone calls, which creates its own set of problems in emergency situations. "You must stay on the line with the operator when using your cellular phone and describe where you are if you do not know the address", he stated. He also told us that all cell phones can call 911 as long as they have a charged battery, even if you do not subscribe to the cellular service.

Anyone with old, used cellular telephones can turn them into the Fire Department or the Center Against Family Violence for use by others that can not afford them to be used in the event of an emergency. Just make sure the battery is with it and it is capable of being charged. You will be helping give peace of mind to either a victim of domestic violence or a senior on a limited or fixed income.



Important Telephone Numbers



Terri Teten 644-3692
Superstition Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator

Emergency or Crime in Progress....
911

Community Relations Unit....644-2300
Community Relations FAX....644-2800
Police Non-Emergency.....644-2211
Silent Witness.....1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline(602)644-5081
Graffiti Hotline.....644-3083
Gang Hotline.....644-4264
Fraud Alert Hotline.....644-2345

I would like to give a very big THANK YOU to Terri and Mike Burdsall for their assistance in making the summer captains meeting such a success. They had volunteered to assist me and then they went out and found over 30 door prizes to share with their fellow captains. These prizes were donated by 12 sponsors and included everything from food to golf games. In addition, Home Depot donated 3 Limited Edition Collectors Cars and I saved 2 of them for other meetings. They worked very hard to help me get the meeting together. They also graciously told the other captains how they were able to get these sponsors to help them. Again, Terri and Mike, thanks. Your help was very much appreciated.

Remember that being a good neighbor is one of the best crime prevention tools !!!!



GAIN IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!!

The 6th Annual GAIN (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) event is rapidly approaching! Mark your calendars for the evening of Saturday, October 4. For those unfamiliar with GAIN, it is a statewide program to promote crime prevention, unite neighborhoods in their fight against criminal activities, and bring communities closer together. In Arizona, GAIN replaces the nationwide "National Night Out" program, which is held in August. Neighborhood Watch leaders are encouraged to hold a GAIN party, which also counts as one of the two required [Neighborhood Watch] get-togethers each year. During the evening, specialty units from the police and fire departments, City officials, and other City agency representatives spend the evening visiting parties and chatting with members of the community. Visits will begin at approximately 5:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Due to the high number of parties that Mesa holds each year, requests for specialty units are not taken. Please be assured that the coordinators will do everything they can to ensure that at least someone from City government visits your party. Unfortunately, sometimes due to unforeseen circumstances, parties may not get a visit. To ensure that your name will be put on the list for a visit, please make sure you register your GAIN party prior to the deadline. If you have not received your GAIN registration form by August 30th, please call Terri at 644-3692 or Lindy Marino at 644-3921. If you need barricades to block off your street (please remember that you cannot prevent local traffic and homeowners from entering the area) please call 644-2160. **In the event of rain, neighbors are encouraged to still hold their parties, but move them into a garage or under shelter. The specialty units still visit each location they are assigned, rain or shine!!!**

BUT WAIT!!! Don't forget the GAIN Kick Off! This event, which will be held during the evening hours of September 9, is by invitation only. Each block captain and assistant/co-captain will receive an invitation. As always, this is an adult event, so we ask that you do not bring children. If you have special circumstances, please call me. This event will mainly be held outside so please dress accordingly. More information will be forthcoming, watch your mail! I hope to see you all there!

The Truth about Club Drugs and Raves

At today's dance clubs and all-night parties, or raves, more and more people are being exposed to club drugs. Many people think club drugs are harmless, but they can cause serious mental and physical problems -- and sometimes death. Parents, along with the teens, should be made aware of the potential risks.

So what are the risks? When you use club drugs you open yourself to potential date-rape situations and other risky activities, such as increased drug use, unpredictable behavior and unprotected sex. There is a lot of misinformation being circulated about club drugs, especially on the Internet. The truth is that club drugs are illegal, harmful substances, and using them with the belief they cannot hurt you makes them even more dangerous. Drug dealers and makers of the club drugs are not exactly world-class chemists, and the "labs" they use can range from sleazy hotel rooms to someone's junked-up garage -- not sanitary. Another reason to stay away from club drugs is the dosage and concentration of these drugs are completely unknown. Combining club drugs with alcohol and other mood-altering substances, as users often do, creates even greater risk. Club drugs are also addictive. People who use GHB, for example, report detoxification symptoms after they stop using, repeated use in spite of unpleasant occurrences while they were on the drug, and great difficulty in not using again. Similarly, users of Ecstasy experience withdrawal symptoms and a renewed craving for the drug after those symptoms have passed.

Know the facts about the dangers of club drugs. If you or someone you know is having problems with club drugs, there are people and places ready to help. Resources available include school counselors, members of the clergy, your local chapter of Narcotics Anonymous, rape-counseling centers, hospital substance-abuse programs and private practitioners specializing in addiction medicine.

For more information contact Mesa Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, 480-644-2300, or to report any activity concerning any of the Club Drugs or Raves contact the MPD Narcotic Hotline: 480-644-NARC (6272).

- In Maricopa County contact Community Information and Referral at (602) 263-8856 or 1-800-352-3792 for a variety of resources and substance-abuse programs.
- National Institute on Drug Abuse Club Drugs Initiative -- www.clubdrugs.org/.
- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information -- 1-800-729-6686.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) -- 1-800-662-HELP (4357).



By
Commander Dan Saban



Recently we took advantage of our SRO (School Resource Officer) program. There are six weeks during the summer break when the SRO's are not mandated or needed to work at their particular schools. Being the creative folks we are here at Superstition we decided to use them on the "street". We divided the six weeks in half and the 3 Superstition Patrol shifts & the CAT Team worked a special detail from June 9th until July 9th while the SRO's covered their beats/shifts for them. All 3 shifts developed plans to target problem areas and individuals within the district. The officers completed these projects with the use of concentrated patrol, undercover vehicles and intelligence gathering. The leftover three weeks SRO's were the given the chance to do covert operations.

These activities resulted in the following: 44 outstanding Warrants were served, 19 "new" arrests were made, 3 stolen vehicles and 1 gun recovered, marijuana & meth seized and 24 citations issued for selling alcohol to minors. As you can see the directed patrol efforts had a significant impact on crime occurring within our district. I wish to personally thank the SRO's and the Officers who participated in this event and I can assure you we'll do it again.

Stay Safe!

Cyber-Supervision

We know that the internet can be a great learning tool for our children. When a child goes on-line while sitting at a desk in the privacy of their own room they encounter websites that provide a myriad of information, have chats with their school friends and places to meet new people. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, last year 705 children were abducted by the simple click of a mouse. That click can give a child molester access to your children— access that can actually lead to abduction. The only way to protect our children is to take preventative measures before they become "mouse bait". Parental controls are very difficult in that privacy setting and supervision was sometimes easier said than done. However, technology is now available to assist parents in monitoring their children's internet activities.

There are a number of products on the market that parents can use to track the activity of their children while they are on the internet. These products range in price from \$ 0 to over \$150.00. Below are just two examples of the many products available: msgplus.net and Spytech's SpyAgent.



MSN Messenger has a free download which creates chat logs and events logs, allowing the parent to read all of the conversations their children accumulate while using their MSN messenger, a real-time conversation link. Many children use this method of communicating with numerous friends at one time, forming their own "chat line". It also gives them the ability to play games with numerous players. The site for this download is <http://www.msgplus.net>. You can go to the MSN website for complete details on the product and its capabilities.

Parents of children with advanced computer skills, who are able to evade or disconnect the passive monitoring of the MSN product, may require a software product that the child can not detect. One such medium priced product is "Spytech's SpyAgent". This software will monitor the child's activities on the PC and do it without them knowing it is working in the background (total stealth). It captures passwords records keystrokes, logs internet connections made, view logs via e-mail, etc.

Parents wanting more information can search the internet for the many websites addressing parental control software or check with their internet provider. Brochures are available through the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit and parents wanting additional information addressing Cybersafety for Children, including the availability of a group presentation should contact Terri Teten at 480-644-3692.



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Community Relations Unit
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Calendar of Events — Fall 2003

September 2 and 4 - R.A.D. Self Defense Training for Women

5:00 to 10:00 pm. Red Mountain Multigenerational Center (7552 E. Adobe)
Prior registration through Mesa Parks & Recreation
Call Terri at 644-3692 for details.

September 8— G.A.I.N. Kick Off

6 pm to 8 pm MPD Training Facility (3260 N. 40th St.)
Watch your mail for the GAIN packets and information

October 4 — G.A.I.N. 4 pm to 9:00 pm.

October 22 and 25—R.A.D. Self Defense Training for Women

5:00 to 10:00 pm. Mesa Senior Center (247 N. Macdonald)
Prior registration through Mesa Parks & Recreation
Call Terri at 644-3692 for details.

November 4 and 6— R.A.D. Self Defense Training for Women

5:00 to 10:00 pm. Red Mountain Multigenerational Center (7552 E. Adobe)
Prior registration through Mesa Parks & Recreation
Call Terri at 644-3692 for details.

The 4th Tuesday of every month: Children's Fingerprinting by the Mesa Police Explorers
225 E. 1st St. , Suite #207, (Crime Prevention Unit office)
For additional details call Officer Mitch Adair 480-644-4000 or 644-2300.